

# Coping with International Migration and Implications for Higher Education and Society in Japan

K.K.U. Ananda KUMARA \*

## Abstract

This paper proposes that Japan has been on transition on the context of migration. Foreigners now come to Japan with various objectives such as higher study, working and living, in addition to sightseeing. There are plans on the way to increase the foreign student intake in the higher education sector. At the same time, the recruitment of foreign graduates in Japan has been on the increase and, they are being recruited as skilled labor. Most of the Japanese descendents, on the other hand, are being recruited for jobs which do not demand any specific skill(s) in general. As such, Japan has been entering to a new era of multiculturalism, where the foreigners from various countries join Japanese community for longer stay. The time is right to start thinking seriously on how to cope with the issues relating to a multicultural society.

Keywords: migration, foreign students, population decrease, recruitment of foreigners,  
multicultural society

## 1. About International Migration and Japan

International migration occurs when persons cross national boundaries and stay in the host country for some minimum length of time. Migration may occur due to many reasons. Education may be a good reason for the young to migrate, and some people migrate due to political reasons in the home country, or some others join family members who are in another country. Economic reasons also encourage people to migrate to countries with better opportunities (OECD<sup>1)</sup>, 2006). OECD mentions that changes in labor markets in many OECD countries will force them to continue to receive migrants in the future (OECD, 2009).

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\* Professor : Technology Transfer, Industrial Development

Literature on migration focuses mainly on the developed European countries as well as the United States, Canada, and Australia, but the Asian countries have not received a similar attention (OECD, 2006). This paper focuses on the situation of Japan, as a representative country from Asia, relating to migration. The reasons for selecting Japan for this analysis include the followings: (1) Japan is one of the most developed countries in Asia. (2) Number of foreigners visiting Japan has been rapidly increasing in the last few decades. (3) Japan has been subjected to a drop in population due to the low growth rate in the recent decades. (4) Issues relating to a “multicultural society” have started to receive attention of the authorities and the society especially in the areas with higher foreign population density since recently.

While the total number of foreigners who visited Japan in 1988 was 2,414,447 persons, the number rose in fact to 9,146,108 persons in 2008, showing an increase to nearly 380% over the past 20 years. Likewise, new foreign entrants to Japan also show an increase of 293% during the same 20-year period. Among the new entrants, the great majority (95% of total new entrants in 2008) of foreigners arrived in Japan for a short stay with objectives such as, visiting relatives or sightseeing. In addition, the total number of foreigners registered under the Alien Registration Act has been increasing, and this number rose to more than 2.2 million in 2008 (BIJ, 2009).

As such, Japan also has shown some similarities to the developed European and other countries regarding the context of migration. Accordingly, this paper is an attempt to analyze the current situation and issues relating to international migration in Japan, and draw conclusions as to how the society can respond to this new trend of migration.

## **2. Issues on Population and Migration in Japan**

Several points relating to migration issues in Japan are introduced here. The first point is related to the foreign population. The share of foreign born population<sup>2)</sup> in some countries like Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand and Canada varies from 19% to 24% of the total population. The share of foreign population<sup>3)</sup> varies from 6% to 20% in these countries. The foreign population<sup>4)</sup> in Japan is 2,217,426 persons, which is equivalent to 1.74% of the total population in 2008<sup>5)</sup>. Although the total number of foreign population in Japan is quite small when compared to many other developed countries in the world, it is interesting to note that this number has been increasing over the years. The number of foreigners who have received permanent residency also has been increasing over the years (Figure 1).

The Figure 2 shows that the growth rate of permanent residents is quite high when compared to non-permanent residents in recent years.

The second point is related to the trend of the population in Japan. The population in Japan started to decrease after the peak in 2007. In addition, population growth has been decreasing, and statistics show that a net decrease of the population began from 2007. While the total population in Japan is 127.77 million in 2007, it is estimated that this number will decrease to 95.15 million by 2050, provided that the prevailing conditions relating to population and its growth remain unchanged (OECD, 2009).

The third point is related to the Japanese investments into other countries. Investments made by Japanese firms into other countries, including the developing Asian countries, rose rapidly after the mid-80's. The objectives of these investments were either for business expansion or for transplanting partial or full production activities into the countries with a higher comparative advantage (Kumara & Ramos, 1995). One of the main reasons for such investment is related to the issue of labor. While labor in Japan is costly when compared to the most of the other countries in Asia, procuring of labor for some industries and jobs categorized as “3K<sup>6)</sup>” was a difficult task for the corresponding firms.

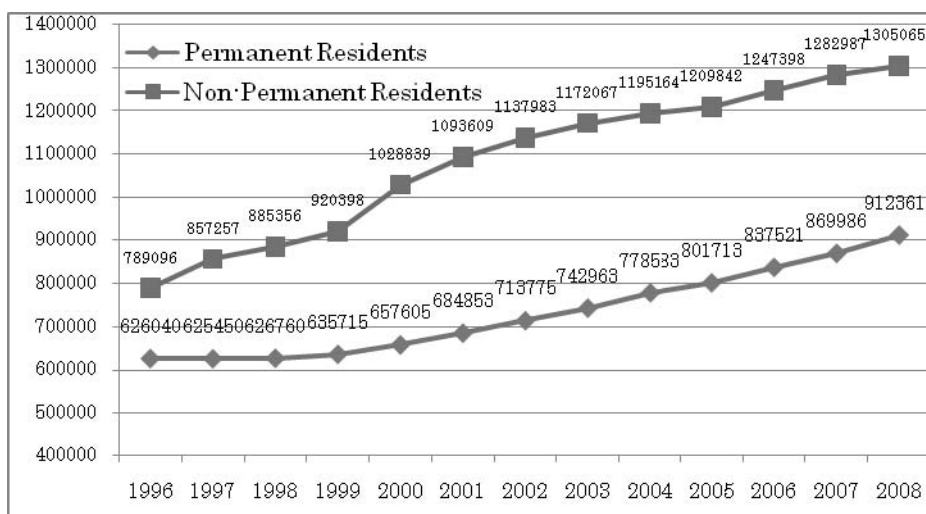


Figure 1: Permanent Residents versus Non-Permanent Residents in Japan

Source: Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ), 2009. Data was rearranged and analyzed by the writer for the purpose of this paper.

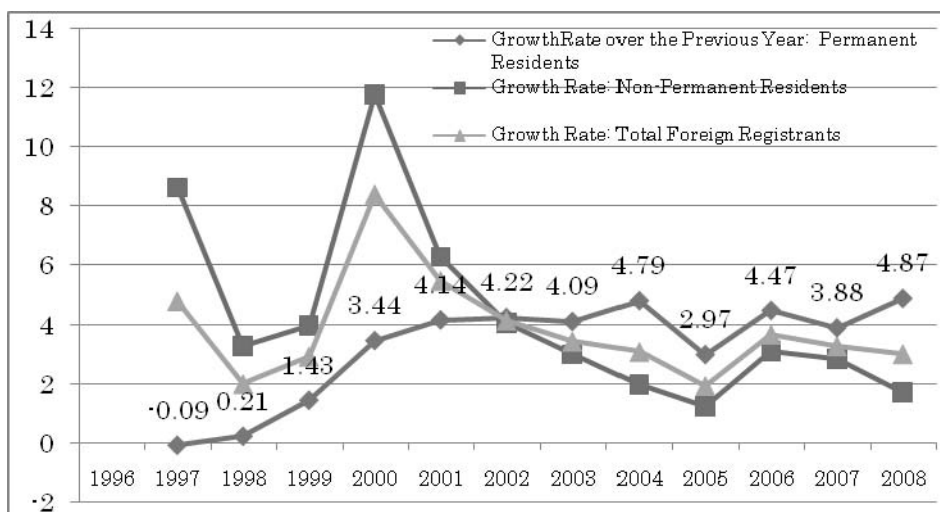


Figure 2: Growth Rate of Foreign Residents in Japan

Source: Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ), 2009. Data was rearranged and analyzed by the writer

The fourth point is related to changes in the immigration policy in Japan. Japan had not been thought of as a destination for employment by people in other countries in general, but the situation started to show a change due to the above problem. In June, 1990, the immigration policy was revised in such a way that Japanese descendants in other countries (such as in Brazil and Peru) receive free access to any kind of job in Japan, including jobs relating to unskilled labor which were not open for foreigners<sup>7)</sup>. Accordingly, the number of foreigners categorized as Japanese descendants from those countries started to enter the Japanese labor market, and today, such “foreigners” from Brazil and Peru alone has risen to 372,305 persons, representing 16.8% of the total foreign population in Japan.

The fifth point is related to the foreign students and implications for higher education in Japan. As this is one of the most important points which would have an impact not only on the higher education sector, but the Japanese society as a whole, this issue will be discussed in detail in the next section.

### 3. Foreign Students and Higher Education in Japan

Japanese educational institutes at all levels, varying from primary up to the higher education sector, have been facing a severe problem recently due to the decrease of young and student population<sup>8)</sup>. The 18-year old population in Japan shows two peak years during the last five decades: the first peak in 1966

with 2.49 million and the second in 1992 with 2.05 million persons. The 18-year old population is considered as the target group for entrance examinations of higher education institutes. This number started to decrease gradually after the second peak in 1992, and the number in 2008 was only 1.24 million persons, which is even less than a half when compared to 1966. According to the population forecast, 18-year old population will continue to decrease during the next two decades, and will not increase unless a drastic change occurs in the society. It is known that many Japanese universities have a difficulty in finding enough students to fill the targets as approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (hereinafter to be referred as “MEXT”) (MEXT<sup>9)</sup>, 2008).

According to a survey conducted by the Shigaku Corporation<sup>10)</sup> in 2008, 47.1% (266 universities out of a total of 565) of the private universities have not been able to recruit the minimum number of students to fill the approved capacity. Moreover, 29 institutes, which is equivalent to 5.1% of the total number of 4-year private universities, were not even able to recruit at least 50% of the approved capacity<sup>11)</sup>. According to the current practices, universities with less than 50% student capacity are not entitled for government subsidies and, as a consequence, such institutes would find increasing difficulties to continue operations in the future unless the student intake increases. As such, those issues mentioned above should be considered as critical factors affecting higher level educational institutes as they may eventually impact the education system as a whole.

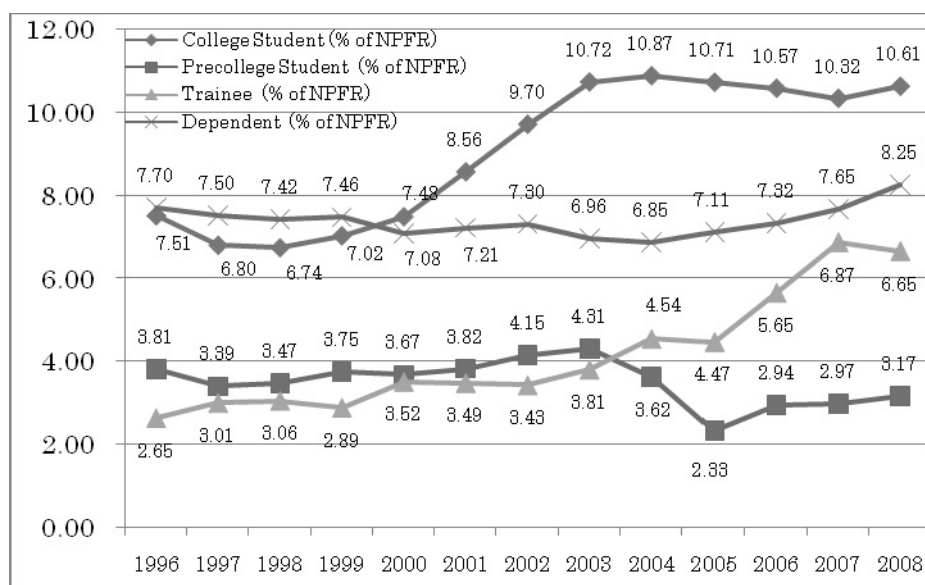


Figure 3: Structural Analysis of Non-Permanent Foreign Residents in Japan

Source: Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ), 2009. Data was rearranged and analyzed by the writer for the purpose of this paper.

Note: NPFR=Non Permanent Foreign Residents

In fact, the decrease of population has affected not only higher level educational institutes, but primary and secondary level schools as well. According to some statistics, 2,125 such schools<sup>12)</sup> were closed during the thirteen year period of 1992-2004. News on closures of schools appear in newspapers quite often.

Nevertheless, universities have been trying to respond to this situation by reducing their capacity for student intake, restructuring faculties and departments, and, the relocation of learning centers to developed urban areas. In addition, even well established universities in the urban centers have expanded student recruitment activities in remote areas and, conduct entrance examinations in such areas also. However, as described earlier, there is a limitation in the number of potential Japanese candidates (i.e., 18-year old high school graduates in general) for university entrance, and this number will continue to decline in the future as the 18-year population decreases. As a result, the competition among the Japanese students for university entrance has been rapidly decreasing, except for a few famous and reputed universities.

While the student recruiting within Japan has been intensifying among universities, a similar situation can be seen in the conception for foreign students. In addition to conducting entrance examinations for foreign students in Japan, many universities now conduct special examinations in other countries as well, so that foreign students can sit for such entrance examinations of Japanese universities in their home countries. The number of foreign students in universities has been on a steady increase in the last few decades. In 1983, there were only 10,428 foreign students<sup>13)</sup> in Japanese universities, and this number rose to 59,228 students in 1996, showing nearly a 6-fold increase in the 1983-1996 period. In 2003, this number rose to 125,597, showing more than a two-fold increase during 1996-2003 period, and a 12-fold increase compared to 1983.

MEXT announced in 2007 its plan for accepting 300,000 foreign students<sup>14)</sup> by 2020. This is an increase of nearly 2.5 times the current situation. There are 138,514 students today who have received the “college student” visa status (hereinafter to be referred as “foreign students”), and they pursue studies at tertiary and higher education institutes. If “pre-college student” and “trainee” categories also are taken into account, the total number of foreigners who have arrived in Japan with the objective of

“learning”, whether in a formal education institute or in a Japanese enterprise, rises to 266,653 persons. This number is almost double<sup>15)</sup> compared to the number categorized as foreign students today (BIJ, 2009). Accordingly, one may estimate that the number of foreigners who will arrive in Japan with the objective of learning by 2020 would be much larger than the targeted number of 300,000 persons as in the plan proposed by MEXT, 2007.

As seen in Figure 3, the share of foreign students as a percentage of the total non-permanent foreign residents has been increasing, and this share is the highest among other categories such as, dependents of foreigners, trainees, and pre-college students.

The target of foreign students by 2020 would be more than 5-times compared to the number in 1996, or equivalent to a 28-fold increase between 1983-2020 period. When the forecasted rapid decrease of 18-year old population is taken into consideration, one may assume that the targeted number of 300,000 foreign students may not be sufficient to fill the vacancies in universities by 2020, if the factors affecting universities remain unchanged.

#### **4. Recruitment of Foreign Graduates in Japan and Impact on the Labor Market**

Although the number of foreign students in Japan has been increasing over the years, the number absorbed to the labor market has been very low. Less than 5% of the foreign students received employment opportunity in 2005. According to Table 1, 5.3% (3,135 persons) of the total foreign students applied for work permits and, only 4.9% (2,927 persons) received approval in 1996. In 2000, only 3.5% of the total number of foreign students received work permits. The number of approvals when compared with the number of applicants for work permits shows an approval rate between 86.6% (in 2005) and 94.6% (in 1997). Although only a few foreign graduates were recruited by firms before 2005, the situation showed improvement after 2006. More than 11,000 foreign graduates received work permits in 2008, which is the highest among the recorded data.

Most work permits were granted under the “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” category and, this number rises to 7,863 (71.2% of the total work permits) in 2008. Out of the total work permits, 2,414 foreign graduates belonged to the category of “Engineers”, which is the second largest category of jobs (equivalent to 21.9%). The total number of foreign graduates who were recruited as “Professors” was 430 in the same year which is equivalent to 3.9% of total approvals. These three major job categories alone represent 97% of the total work permits in the same year.

Table 1: Foreign Graduates' Work Permit Applications and Approvals

Year	Number of Applicants for Work Permits	Number Approved	Approval Rate for Work Permits (%)	Number of Foreign Students	% of Applicants to Total Foreign Students	% of Work Permits to Total Foreign Students
1996	3,135	2,927	93.4	59,228	5.3	4.9
1997	2,775	2,624	94.6	58,271	4.8	4.5
1998	2,663	2,391	89.8	59,648	4.5	4.0
1999	3,071	2,989	97.3	64,646	4.8	4.6
2000	3,039	2,689	88.5	76,980	3.9	3.5
2001	4,132	3,581	86.7	93,614	4.4	3.8
2002	3,600	3,209	89.1	110,415	3.3	2.9
2003	4,254	3,778	88.8	125,597	3.4	3.0
2004	5,820	5,264	90.4	129,873	4.5	4.1
2005	6,788	5,878	86.6	121,568	5.6	4.8
2006	9,034	8,272	91.6	131,789	6.9	6.3
2007	11,410	10,262	89.9	132,460	8.6	7.7
2008	na	11,040	na	na	na	na

Source: Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ) 2008 and 2009. Data was rearranged and analyzed by the writer.

The Manufacturing Sector absorbed many foreign graduates and its share in 2007 was 29.4% of the total work permit holders (3,018 persons). Likewise, the Business & Trading Sector absorbed 20.9% of the work permit holders (2,145 persons). The third largest number of work permit holders (1,510 persons, 14.7%) was absorbed into Computer-related firms.



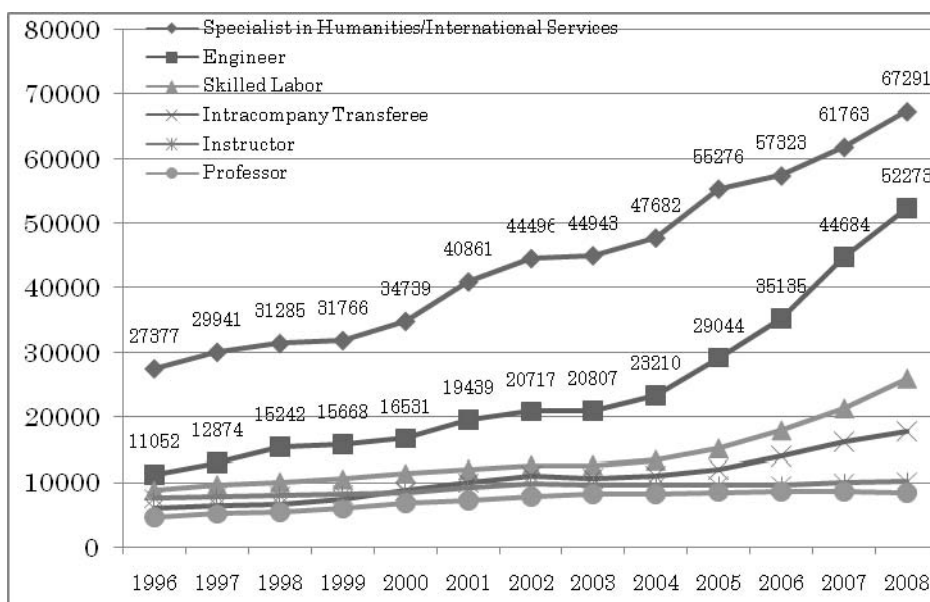


Figure 4: Number of Work Permit Holders (Selected Major Categories)

Source: Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ) 2009. Data was rearranged and analyzed by the writer.

Most of the foreign graduates were recruited by firms with small numbers of employees. Out of the total work permits, 40.5% were absorbed in companies with less than 49 employees. Firms between 100 to 299 employees have recruited the second largest number of foreign graduates, which is equivalent to 15.3% of the total work permit holders. Firms with more than 2000 employees have recruited 10.6% of the total work permit holders, representing the third largest number of foreign graduate intake. The fourth largest number of foreign graduates was recruited by firms between 300 to 999 employees, representing 19.6% of the work permit holders. As such, it can be extrapolated that more than 65% of the work permit holders were recruited by firms with less than 299 employees, which are mostly small and medium scale firms. Only about 25% of the work permit holders were recruited by comparatively larger firms with more than 300 employees.

Table 2: Scale of Firms where Foreign Graduates were Recruited (2007)

No. of Employees	1~49	50~99	100~299	300~999	1,000~1,999	2,000 or more	Non specified	Total
No. of Work Permits Granted	4,153	990	1571	1,042	458	1,085	963	10,262
%	40.5	9.6	15.3	10.2	4.5	10.6	9.4	100.0

Source: Bureau of Immigration, (BIJ) Japan, 2008.

## 5. Special Characteristics of Foreign Students and Graduates in Japanese Universities

Kumara<sup>16)</sup> (2001) proposes an important finding in relation to the quality of foreign students when compared to their Japanese counterparts in university. Kumara (2001) conducted a survey in the 3-prefectures of the Tokai area (i.e., Aichi, Mie and Gifu) by focusing a total of 815 foreign and Japanese students in selected private, public and national universities. Results corresponding to two aspects as (i) Factors affecting the university selection and (ii) Behavior of students in the classroom will be introduced here.

In relation to (i) “Factors affecting the university selection”, foreign students attached top priority to future prospects due to study in a particular university and, it was the second priority for Japanese students. Japanese students attached top priority to the ease of the entrance examination when selecting a university. In fact, the ease of access to university was given least priority by foreign students. However, why Japanese students had not given top priority to future prospects due to study in the particular university may be questionable. Being nationals of Japan, Japanese students would be in a better situation to select a university of their choice, when compared to students from foreign countries. However, foreign students are the ones who seem to attach higher priority to the aspect of “Study” when selecting a university, compared to their Japanese counterparts. This difference of attitude between Japanese and foreign students in selecting a university may impact their behavior relating to study as well.

According to the information in Table 3, the level of attendance to lectures is higher for foreign students and they have felt that the Japanese students are not so keen in attending lectures. Surprisingly, the Japanese students also have felt that Japanese students are not so keen. In addition, the fact that the

attendance to lectures by foreign students has recorded 4.2 out of 5 points when compared to 3.8 points by Japanese students bear an important message regarding the difference of keenness in studying by both groups.

The Japanese students seem to have accepted that they are not so keen in attending to preparatory work and post lecture review. They have recognized that foreign students pay more attention to those aspects. Likewise, the classroom attitudes also show a similar situation.

Respondents were also asked how would their counterparts may assess about the keenness of the respondent, i.e., the “perceived assessment by the counterpart”. The mean value of the responses for this question was 2.3 for Japanese students and, 2.9 for foreign students. This result implies that the Japanese students have felt that their counterparts (i.e., foreign students) may not assess them (Japanese students) as “keen students”. Likewise, the foreign students have felt that their counterparts (i.e., Japanese students) would assess them (i.e., foreign students) more favorably when compared to the situation of the Japanese students. When all these responses are considered, it is clear that the foreign university students as a whole are keener in learning than their Japanese counterparts.

Table 3: Behavior of Students in the Classroom and Attitudes on Learning: Japanese Verses Foreign University Students

Content	Assessment by the Japanese Students		Assessment by the Foreign Students	
	About the Oneself	About Foreign Counterparts	About the Oneself	About Japanese Counterparts
1. Attendance to Lectures	3.8	3.7	4.2	3.0
2. Attention to preparatory work and post lecture review	2.4	3.5	3.5	2.9
3. Attitude during the class	3.0	3.7	4.0	2.9
4. Perceived assessment about the “oneself” by their counterparts	2.3	-	2.9	-

Source: Kumara & Yoshida (2003).

Note: The 5-point Likert scale was used in the questionnaire, with the numeric value 1 referring to the poorest situation, and 5 to the best situation. As such, a higher number in each aspect refers to a better situation, and a lower number to a weaker situation. The numbers above are mean values corresponding to each aspect.

Although basic research of this type is very rare in Japan, the above results point out important issues relating to future human resources in Japan in the context of quality difference among foreign and Japanese graduates in universities. As such, the writer is of the opinion that the policies on educating foreign students should be coupled with stimulating the Japanese students through the provision of increased opportunities for mutual interaction and mutual learning. Foreign students can be treated as an increasingly important entity for the society if their existence can impact Japanese students.

In general, being the natives in Japan, the Japanese language capability of Japanese students shall be higher than the foreign students. However, the knowledge or the skills relating to a specific field of study may be lower than their counterparts from foreign countries, if the above findings hold true when applied to all universities throughout the country.

The implication of these findings is that, although the recruitment of foreign students is a recent phenomenon for Japanese firms, when the attention is paid to the quality of human resources, more firms may tend to recruit foreign students from Japanese universities in the future. Quality of labor should be an important factor to “win” in the era of intense international competition. The new phenomenon of the recruitment of foreign graduates proposes several important points for further notice:

1. The first point is that these foreign students have been recruited for jobs which demand some specific skills, and not for basic manual labor as is the case for many Japanese descendents from countries such as Brazil or Peru.
2. The second point is that, although the manufacturing sector stands as the leading sector for absorbing foreign graduates, the non-manufacturing sector has absorbed more than 70% of the total work permit holders. These jobs also are not just basic manual labor, but demand such skills as economics, marketing or language interpretation skills, and the like.
3. The third point refers to the higher quality of the foreign students who received work permits after the completion of higher education. Out of the total work permit holders, 79.5% (8,113 persons) had completed either undergraduate or graduate degrees. The number of graduate degree holders (masters and doctorates) rose to 3,176 persons, representing 30.9% of the total

work permit holders in 2007<sup>17)</sup>.

It is known that although Japanese universities are now trying to introduce courses in the English medium, the majority of the courses are still taught in the Japanese medium. That means that the foreign students should have acquired a fair knowledge of the Japanese language to follow the courses in Japanese universities. In addition, through the university education system, foreign students receive chances, directly or indirectly, to learn and familiarize with the Japanese culture and society. Foreign students may receive frequent opportunities to interact with the Japanese people, in addition to their daily interaction with Japanese students in the university. Student club activities are open for foreign students as well. It is also known that many foreign students are engaged in some kind of part-time work, where they receive many chances for interaction with the Japanese people and society. Moreover, Japanese language courses are available in most of the universities which consider the recruitment of foreign students as a major element in their student recruitment policy.

As such, it can be assumed that the graduation of a foreign student from a Japanese university implies that those graduates have not only achieved a higher level of education of a specific academic stream, but acquired a fair amount of knowledge and understanding about Japanese language and society as well. It should be noted that this situation is quite different when compared with the so-called “newcomers” from such countries as Brazil or Peru who are mostly involved in basic manual work.

## **6. Towards A Multicultural Society: Some Points of Importance**

As discussed in the previous sections, it is clear that Japan has been showing signs of a new trend in relation to the labor market as well as higher education. More foreigners may come to Japan in the future to acquire higher level skills through university education. When considering the strong presence of Japanese firms in other countries, it can be assumed that Japanese firms are forced to secure a stable, quality and reliable human resources for their operational bases in those countries too. In addition to the recruitment in the local labor market in the foreign destinations, recruitment of foreign graduates from Japanese universities may be considered a means of securing quality and reliable human resources for both the operations in the parent companies in Japan and their foreign subsidiaries.

Securing quality human resources with a thorough understanding about both Japan and the foreign countries (where the Japanese subsidiaries are located) may be considered an important factor for stable

and competitive business operations. The fact that the foreign students have proved to be keener in learning at universities may be an added incentive for the Japanese firms to recruit foreign students as a part of their recruitment policies in the future. In fact, strict laws imposed by the Bureau of Immigration, Japan<sup>18)</sup>, restricting the engagement in part-time work by foreign students may directly or indirectly contribute to the seriousness of the foreign students, which may eventually relate to the higher quality of the foreign graduates from Japanese universities.

As foreigners from the South American countries such as Brazil and Peru are allowed to engage in any kind of job categories, the most of the labor from these countries are engaged in various jobs including simple and manual work. Although full time regular work is available for these “newcomers”, many of them have been recruited under contract basis for a limited period of time. It is known that the local labor dispatching companies recruit such newcomers and dispatch them to different companies from time to time according to the requests of corresponding companies. The important point here is that most of these newcomers have to work either as semi-skilled or non-skilled contracted workers in Japanese firms.

However, by law, foreign graduates do not receive opportunity to engage in such work as in the case of Japanese descendents from Brazil or Peru. This situation proposes that the labor market in Japan is in transition today, and the quality foreign graduates in Japanese universities will receive increased job opportunities in the Japanese firms in the future. Accordingly, the society will have to pay more attention to seek effective ways to deal with people who have different nationalities. Not only the language issue, but the difference of culture, tradition and the way of thinking of foreigners shall receive attention when more and more foreigners become a part of the community. The corresponding issues in the context of multiculturalism will be addressed by the writer in the future analysis.

## Notes

- 1) OECD is the acronym for “Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development”, with the head office in Paris.
- 2) “Foreign born” population refers to the people who were born in other countries but later acquired the nationality in the resident country through naturalization. In case of Japan, foreigners who have acquired the Japanese Nationality belong to this category.
- 3) Foreign population refers to the people who live in a specific country while holding a nationality of another country. Foreigners who arrive in a specific country for purposes other than the tourism, short-term and temporary stay belong to this category. In Japan, foreigners who are required to register at the local government (e.g., City Office or Ward Office) under the Alien Registration Act belong to this category in case of Japan.
- 4) Statistics about “foreign born population” in Japan is not clear, and therefore, this paper focuses only on the “foreign population” for which the data and other information is accessible.
- 5) Data is not clear relating to the foreign born population in Japan.
- 6) The term “3K” stands for *Kitsui* (difficult), *Kitanai* (dirty) and *Kiken* (dangerous). The term came into vogue around 1990, when foreign workers from the Third World found themselves in great demand at construction sites and factories during the bubble economy while Japanese workers showed an increasing preference for white-collar jobs (Khan, 2003).
- 7) By law, Japan does not grant visa for foreigners to engage in manual and unskilled jobs. However, according to the revisions made to the immigration policy in 1990, Japanese descendents, who are also categorized as “foreigners”, can easily change the visa status to “permanent residency” so that they can engage in any kind of jobs including manual and unskilled jobs which are not open for foreigners in general.
- 8) As described earlier, peak of the total population in Japan was in 2007.
- 9) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (hereinafter to be referred as MEXT)
- 10) The Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools in Japan; to be referred as “Shigaku Corporation” hereinafter.
- 11) Sankei News, 2008.7.30, <http://sankei.jp.msn.com/life/education/080730/edc0807301912007-n1.htm>
- 12) This figure refers to the number of primary schools, junior high schools and senior high schools closed down during the corresponding period.
- 13) The term “Foreign Students” refers here to the visa status categorized as “College Students” and those foreigners who have arrived in Japan with the objective of entering higher education institutes such as universities and colleges.
- 14) From the “Plan for accepting 300,000 foreign students by 2020” (in Japanese). HP Address: [www.sanson.or.jp/sokuhou/no\\_863/863-2.html](http://www.sanson.or.jp/sokuhou/no_863/863-2.html). Access on 2009.10.24
- 15) Data from the On-line Data Source, Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ), 2009. HP Address: <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>
- 16) This research was conducted with the request of the Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ), Nagoya, by focusing more than 815 university students. More than 200 respondents were foreign students while the rest were Japanese students. A questionnaire was used as the basic tool for data collection.

17) Analysis done by the writer based on the information from the Bureau of Immigration, Japan (BIJ), 2009.

18) Foreign students are allowed to engage in part time work with the approval of BIJ. Those who wish to engage in a part time job should submit an application to the BIJ for authorization. While restrictions are imposed regarding the type of part time work, the total number of working hours is limited to 28 hours a week during the school season. During the vacation period, they are allowed to work 8 hours a day. Thanks to such legal barriers, in addition to their own objectives of entering a university in Japan, foreign students receive ample chances to acquire a fair knowledge about the specific field of study at the university.

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